

The President. Thanks, Matt, appreciate it.

The First Lady. Thanks, Matt.

Mr. Lauer. Grab your hammers, and go back to work. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The interview was taped at 6:07 a.m. at the Habitat for Humanity site for later

broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; and Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Department of Justice CIA leak investigation Special Prosecutor.

Remarks to Reporters in Pass Christian, Mississippi October 11, 2005

Listen, first I want to thank the superintendent for inviting us here. The schools of Pass Christian are blue ribbon schools. And they have been blue ribbon schools before, and they'll be blue ribbon schools in the future. Part of the health of a community is to have a school system that's vibrant and alive. And in spite of the fact that a lot of equipment was damaged and homes destroyed and teachers without places to live and—this school district is strong, and it's coming back. And it's a sign that out of the rubble here on the gulf coast of Mississippi is a rebuilding, is a spirit of rebuilding.

And thank you all for having us. I want to thank the principals and teachers for understanding the quality of education—the quality of the education in a community helps define the nature of the community. And one of the things that's interesting is the high school principal told Laura and me that the—and Madam Secretary—that

the high school was deemed to be a blue ribbon high school after Katrina hit. And yet a lot of the students don't know that yet. And so when the high school comes back next Monday, the first thing the principal is going to tell them is that the school that they go to, even though the building is different—the buildings are different—is a blue ribbon high school.

And the superintendent says, blue ribbon high school last year, this year, and next year. And I appreciate your spirit. Thanks for letting us come by.

Thank you all. Bye-bye. Good to meet you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:54 a.m. at DeLisle Elementary School. In his remarks, he referred to Sue Matheson, superintendent, Pass Christian School District; Cathy Broadway, principal, Pass Christian High School; and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

Remarks at the Joint Reserve Base at the U.S. Naval Air Station in New Orleans, Louisiana October 11, 2005

Generals, thanks—General Landreneau and General Downer, thank you all for greeting me here. I'm proud to be traveling

with Members of the United States Congress who are with us today. Listen, I'm here to thank you all for what has been